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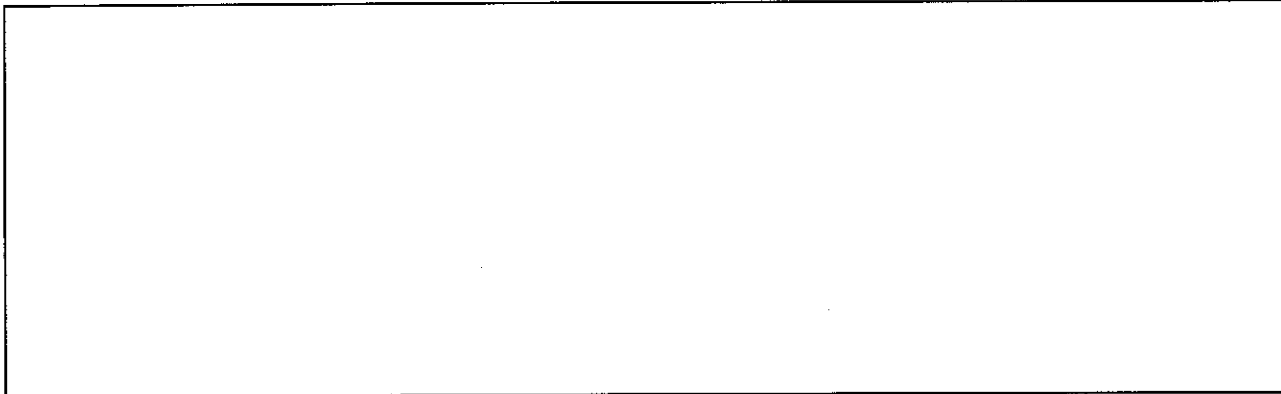
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- Assistant Secretary's Daily Activity Report
Office of Andean Affairs
April 4, 2002

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D), 1.4(B)

VENEZUELA



(C) Chavistas Lose Another Vote in National Assembly.

- The opposition alliance *Autonomía Parlamentaria* defeated a *chavista* proposal for a special law to replace the current board of the *Consejo Nacional Electoral* (CNE).
- This special law would have (again) by-passed constitutional provisions that call for civil society participation in screening candidates for the CNE.



- The CNE President and one other CNE member announced their resignations on April 2, but will remain until replacements are named. They will not decide the CTV matter.
- MVR leaders met with Interior Minister Rodríguez Chacín to prepare to defend him as a resolution on his resignation is debated today. (*Naranjo/Ochiltree e-mail, El Universal*)

(S) State Oil Company PDVSA Strikes.

- Workers struck at two PDVSA refineries today. There may be further PDVSA strikes. There were disturbances outside PDVSA headquarters in Caracas.
- President Chávez had said he would order the National Guard to take over operation of PDVSA, but that has not happened yet.
- The strike would last at least five days in an effort to deplete gasoline reserves for domestic consumption. Long lines formed almost immediately at service stations across the country. Exports to the U.S. could be affected.



(Reuters, Cook/Naranjo secure telcon)

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